ments alongwith upto date department-wise position of the development work; and

(c) whether various Departments have started construction works on approved schemes for the year 1994-95, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and the same will be laid on the Table of the House.

People below poverty lines

3218. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that according to the findings of an export group set up by the Planning Commission 39.34 per cent of the people of the country were below poverty line in 1987-88 whereas the official figures put the percentage at 29.9 per cent;

(b) if so, the reasons of difference in figures;

(c) whether the on-going economic reforms in the country have contributed in reducing the poverty level; and

(d) if so, to what extent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The variation in the two estimates is due to the differences in the methodology of estimation.

(c) and (d) The estimates of poverty are made using the data of quinquennial survey of household consumer expenditure. The last two such surveys were held for the years 1987-88 and 1993-94. Results of 1993-94 survey done in the post reform period are not available.

Replacement of microprocessors and data entry machines

3219. DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Statistics has taken a decision to replace all the existing microprocessors and data entry machines in its Data Processing Centres under the pretext that they have become, obsolete and will have to be replaced by latest model microprocessors and data entry terminals.

(b) if so, what is the amount of loss caused by discarding the old machines;

(c) when were the machines now being discarded were purchased and at what cost;

(d) whether the machines now being installed were also available in the past; if so, why these were not purchased;

(e) what is the guarantee that the present new models being installed will not get obsolete very soon;

(f) whether any models more latest than those being installed do exist in the market; and

(g) if so, whether Government will review its decision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG): (a) to (g) The machines in reference were purchased at a cost of Rs. 77.76 lakhs in 1985-86. They were purchased from UPTRON INDIA LIMITED which is a Public Sector Undertaking.

Over a period of time, any machine does get old and become obsolete. In the field of electronics, as is well known, the rate of obsolescence is particularly high. In this case, the machines were declared to be obsolete and unserviceable

by the manufacturers. An Expert Committee, which included experts in Electronics also, had examined the details to confirm this position and to propose alternatives. There will be no financial loss on account of condemnation of these machines as their book value had become 'NIL'.

No new machines have been purchased as yet. A Notice inviting tenders has been issued. The machines proposed to be purchased will be of the latest technology in operation and available in the country. In the circumstance, there can be no question about their availability in 1985-86.

As stated earlier, the rate of obsolescence in the field of electronics is particularly high. That being so, the new machines will, in due course, also become obsolete. Whenever this happens, appropriate action will be taken to update/upgrade the facilities.

In the light of what has been stated above, there is no need to review the decision already taken.

Special Assistance for Big cities of Gujarat

3220. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: Will the Minister of PANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration to allocate special assistance from the Central assistance Fund under the Special Assistance Plan during the Eighth Plan to solve the basic problems of the big cities of the Gujarat State;

(b) if so, what measures have been taken by Government in this regard;

(c) whether Government have received some representations in this regard and if so, the reaction of Government thereof; and

(d) by when Government will allocate the assistance for the above purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) No representation for additional/Special Plan Assistance to solve the basic problems of big cities in Gujarat is pending with the Government.

Agricultural Development in Gujarat

3221. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) the total funds allocated to Gujarat State for the agricultural development during the year 1994-95;

(b) the amount actually utilised by the State Government;

(c) whether the State Government has sought additional amount during the current financial year; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG): (a) The Planning Commission finalises the sectoral allocations in the Annual Plans of the States in consultation with them in different sectors of development. For the year 1994-95, the approved outlay for agriculture and allied activities for Gujarat is Rs. 133.30 crores.

(b) The anticipated level of expenditure during 1994-95 is placed at Rs. 133.31 crores